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HOUSE RESOLUTION 214  
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Jimmy Floyd Clark of  
Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Jimmy Floyd Clark; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, known on the airwaves as "Clarke Jaye," Jimmy Clark was a gifted communicator, entrepreneur, and radio personality, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and the public alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, born in San Antonio, Texas on February 7, 1945, Jimmy Floyd Clark left this earthly place on February 9, 2002 to be with his Lord; he left an indelible legacy in both his private life and his public life. As the General Manager of several radio stations, he established a new level of community awareness at WBJE in Knoxville, WEBB in Baltimore, Maryland, and at WROW in Augusta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the great, legendary singer-songwriter, James Brown, took notice of Jimmy Clark at the young age of twenty-seven, and appointed Jimmy as his own General Manager and to head the Godfather's broadcast empire; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy's vision for radio programming was "cutting edge," as he was the first to introduce "talk radio" to the public in 1975 with Johnny King as the host of the Watch Dog Hour, sponsored by Cas Walker; and

WHEREAS, as General Manager, Mr. Clark would often interrupt regular broadcasting with commentaries about the day's racial, political, and social issues confronting the African American community; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy's love for God's children and his strong faith in God was demonstrated through the airwaves, not only through the medium of his voice testifying to God's goodness, but also through the many times in which he presented opportunities for people to become involved in the field of radio broadcasting, from sales positions to announcer positions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was an active and devout Christian; under his leadership, WJBE opened its broadcast with a Spiritual Hour, led by the late Bishop Joe Gordon and Brother Louis Thompson; he also broadcast an evening segment with the late Reverend W.E. Parker; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the broadcasting business, Mr. Clark and his wife, Cherry, opened a record store, called "Jimmy's Who Musicmaker," located on what was then known as McCalla Avenue, currently Martin Luther King Boulevard. Mr. Clark played a very active roll in the lobbying for the street name change; and

WHEREAS, successful in their latest musical endeavor, Jimmy and Cherry soon expanded Jimmy Who's to two locations and expanded their product line to include various cultural products along with the popular line of music; they successfully developed an extensive distribution system for their market throughout East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Clark was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship and working partnership of his lovely wife, Cherry; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Clark leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor the memory of Mr. Jimmy Floyd Clark, reflecting fondly upon his deep faith in God, his love for humanity, his impeccable character, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Clark.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.